

The indication that claims 1-17 and 20-25 have been allowed is acknowledged with thanks.

New claims 36-38 have been added, leaving claims 1-25, 33-34, and 36-38 in the application.

Claims 18-19 and 33-34 were rejected as anticipated by THANIYAVARN US2002/0025103 A1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Among other features, these claims provide that at least one of the first and second electrodes and the third electrode extend into at least part of the first or second directional coupler.

The Official Action states that THANIYAVARN discloses this feature. Reconsideration of this statement is respectfully requested because the reference shows in Figures 3A, 3B, 7A, 7B, 8, 9, 11A, and 13A that the first, second, and third electrodes do not extend beyond the phase shifter. There is no suggestion or teaching in this reference to extend any of the electrodes beyond the phase shifter. The electrodes in the directional couplers are not extensions of the electrodes in the phase shifter. Accordingly, the reference does not disclose that at least one of the first and second electrodes and the third electrode extend into at least part of the first or second directional coupler and these claims avoid the rejection under §102.

New claims 36-38 define the invention with greater particularity. The directional couplers include portions where the two optical waveguides converge toward each other, maintain a coupling distance, and diverge from each other, and at least one of the electrodes extends in at least one of the directional couplers to where the two optical waveguides maintain a coupling distance. THANIYAVARN does not show that any of the electrodes in the phase shifter extend to the portion of the directional couplers where the optical waveguides maintain a coupling distance, and thus the new claims are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By


Thomas W. Perkins
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

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